

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support

LYNN WOOLSEY
6TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEES:

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION REFORM

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS

SCIENCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

WEB PAGE AND E-MAIL:
<http://www.woolsey.house.gov/>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0506

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2263 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0506
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-5161

DISTRICT OFFICES:
1101 COLLEGE AVE., SUITE 200
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
TELEPHONE: (707) 542-7182

NORTHGATE BUILDING
1050 NORTHGATE DRIVE, SUITE 140
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903
TELEPHONE: (415) 507-9554

September 29, 2003

Mr. Paul Morabito, Board President
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I am writing to express my support for the request submitted by The Occidental Arts & Ecology Center, for funding of an Estuary Study of Salmon Creek. This project will enable the Center, in co-operation with the Salmon Creek Watershed Council, to continue in their ongoing efforts to study and restore the Salmon Creek Estuary.

It is my understanding that with this funding, The Occidental Arts & Ecology Center will be able to compile historical and anecdotal data and establish a monitoring protocol for the estuary. This will result in better comprehension of the system and will provide a sound foundation for identification of future restoration projects and conservation measures. Working with the GoldRidge Resource Conservation District, local landowners and the Harmony School District, this project enjoys wide support from the community.

This project will greatly benefit California's Sixth Congressional District and I urge you to give this application your full and careful consideration. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Tom Roth in my Santa Rosa office at (707) 542-7182.

Sincerely,



Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

LW: sk

Cc: Richard Retecki, California Coastal Conservancy
Salmon Creek Watershed Council

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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WORKFORCE INVESTMENT

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Assembly California Legislature



PATRICIA WIGGINS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTH DISTRICT

Paul Moravito, Board President
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Coastal Conservancy
Oakland, CA 94612

STATE CAPITOL

☐ P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0007
(916) 319-2007
(916) 319-2107 FAX

DISTRICT OFFICES

☐ 50 D STREET, SUITE 301
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
(707) 546-4500
(707) 546-9031 FAX

☐ 640 TUOLUMNE STREET
SUITE B
VALLEJO, CA 94590
(707) 649-2307
(707) 649-2311 FAX

☐ 1040 MAIN STREET
SUITE 101
NAPA, CA 94559
(707) 258-8007
(707) 258-8205 FAX

November 6, 2003

Dear Mr. Moravito,

I strongly support the proposal submitted by The Occidental Arts & Ecology Center to work with the Salmon Creek Watershed Council to undertake a Salmon Creek Estuary Study. The Council has been involved for many years in efforts to bring both agency and community attention to the need to assess the health of Salmon Creek. I am confident that a scientific study of the estuary and surrounding wetlands, the compilation of historical and anecdotal data, and the establishment of monitoring protocol would contribute significantly to a comprehensive understanding of the entire system and would provide a sound foundation for identification of future restoration projects and conservation measures.

I am very familiar with the groups and individuals involved in this proposed project, knowing them to be respected advocates for environmental stewardship in this region. They have developed a wonderful spirit of cooperation between the Resource Conservation District, the local landowners, the Harmony School District, and the Salmon Creek School, all of whom will be involved. The result will be a meaningful project that will surely lead to improvements in wildlife habitat and an understanding of human impacts on the riparian system.

The Occidental Arts & Ecology Center has an extensive history of collaborating with state and local agencies, and with farmers, landowners and environmental groups in West Sonoma County. They have an excellent record of facilitating and project managing community collaborations that have made significant contributions to Sonoma County's ecological health.

I highly recommend your positive review of this Salmon Creek Estuary Study application, and look forward to the continued success of these organizations in Sonoma County. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

Patricia Wiggins
Assemblymember, 7th District

PW: mer

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EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support

Gray Davis, Governor

Ruth G. Coleman, Director



State of California • The Resources Agency

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
North Bay District
25381 Steelhead Boulevard
P.O. Box 123
Duncans Mills, CA 95430

October 14, 2003

Paul Morabito, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Funding Request for Occidental Arts & Ecology Center Salmon Creek Estuary Study

Dear Mr. Morabito,

I am writing on behalf of the California Department of Parks and Recreation to support the Occidental Arts & Ecology Center in its project to assess the Salmon Creek estuary. This project will be undertaken in cooperation with Salmon Creek Watershed Council, which for many years has been involved in efforts to bring both agency and community attention to the need to assess the health of Salmon Creek.

The in-depth scientific study of the estuary and surrounding wetlands, the compilation of historical and anecdotal data, and the establishment of monitoring protocol will help bring a comprehensive understanding of the entire system and will provide a sound foundation for identification of future restoration projects and conservation measures. The effort to fully involve the community of local landowners and residents is essential to making this a meaningful project that will lead to improvements in wildlife habitat and an understanding of human impacts on the riparian system.

The Occidental Arts & Ecology Center has an extensive history of collaborating with state and local agencies, and with farmers, landowners and environmental groups in West Sonoma County. They have an excellent record of facilitating and project managing community collaborations that have made significant contributions to Sonoma County's ecological health.

As a landowner of a significant portion of the Salmon Creek estuary State Parks is eager to learn of any efforts we may undertake to improve our management of this beautiful and diverse property.

Sincerely,


Joseph P. Mette III
District Superintendent

CC
Richard Retecki
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

TEL: (707) 875-2211
FAX: (707) 875-2009, 875-2089
E-MAIL: ucdbnd@ucdavis.edu
<http://www.html.ucdavis.edu>

BODEGA MARINE LABORATORY
P.O. BOX 247
2099 WESTSIDE ROAD
BODEGA BAY, CALIFORNIA 94923-0247

October 24, 2003

Paul Moravito, Board President
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Coastal Conservancy
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Moravito:

I am writing to express my support for the studies of the Salmon Creek estuary proposed by the Occidental Arts & Ecology Center in co-operation with Salmon Creek Watershed Council. I live in the small community of Salmon Creek, near the estuary mouth, and manage the Bodega Marine Reserve for the University of California Davis, about 2 miles south of the estuary.

I have been impressed many times over the past few years with the energy and dedication of the many residents of our area who have been part of the community efforts on behalf of the watershed, under the umbrella of the Salmon Creek Watershed Council. These efforts have pulled together landowners, scientists, ranchers, conservationists, and local schools to focus on the health of Salmon Creek. The next step is to begin a scientific and historical assessment of the watershed, to determine what monitoring, research, and conservation or restoration projects are most needed. The proposed study will address this need.

Salmon Creek is a small but diverse watershed, running from tall redwood forests to this coastal estuary. Parts of it are still in reasonably good condition, while other areas can benefit from restoration efforts. It is an ideal situation to attempt this kind of a watershed-wide conservation effort, and the Occidental Arts & Ecology Center and Salmon Creek Watershed Council are ideal leaders and organizers of the effort. They will be effective in developing this as a widely-based community effort, with benefits in public education that will add to the immediate benefits of the project itself.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter G. Connors".

Peter G. Connors
Reserve Manager

cc: Richard Retecki
California State Coastal Conservancy

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

POST OFFICE BOX 47
YOUNTVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94599
(707) 944-5500



September 11, 2003

Mr. Paul Morabito, Board President
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Moribito,

This is a letter of support for the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center's (OAEC) grant proposal to conduct an environmental assessment of the Salmon Creek estuary in Sonoma County. OAEC, in cooperation with the Salmon Creek Watershed Council, proposes to conduct an in-depth scientific study of the estuary, surrounding wetlands, and the influence of the upper watershed. A comprehensive assessment will deliver a synthesis of historical and anecdotal data, the establishment of water quality and species habitat monitoring protocols, and the effects of historic and current land uses in the upper Salmon Creek watershed on the estuary.

This summer, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) completed salmonid habitat surveying in Salmon Creek and its tributaries. This data will supplement the DFG funded Salmon Creek watershed assessment. Our habitat surveying and future watershed assessment will not include the estuary as our efforts focus on juvenile salmonid rearing habitat in the upper watershed. Should the Coastal Conservancy fund the estuary assessment, we will have a complete and comprehensive watershed plan that will lead to identification and prioritization of projects that will restore and enhance the Salmon Creek watershed from its mouth to its headwaters.

OAEC has been successful in collaborating with state and local agencies, with farmers, landowners, and environmental groups. DFG has awarded fisheries restoration funding to OAEC over the years and the partnership has been fruitful. The Salmon Creek Watershed Council has been instrumental in assisting me and my crews in gaining landowner access for our habitat surveying and is an active partner in the Salmon Creek watershed assessment. Both organizations are critical stakeholders that have been driving forces in securing funding and agency presence. Frankly, without their assistance and commitment to protection of the resources, agencies alone would be unable to protect and restore critical habitat in West Sonoma County.

I encourage support of this important estuary assessment. Please call me at (707) 944-5579 if you have questions regarding this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Gail Seymour
Watershed Restoration Planner

✓ cc: Mr. Richard Retecki

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support



September 11, 2003

SONOMA COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL
PRESERVATION
& OPEN SPACE
DISTRICT

747 Mendocino Avenue
Suite 100
Santa Rosa, CA
95401-4850
(707) 565-7360
Fax: (707) 565-7359

Paul Morabito, Board President
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito:

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District has a long history of supporting preservation and conservation efforts in the Salmon Creek watershed. As a demonstration of this commitment to date the District has invested \$9.4 million to preserve over 3,700 acres in the watershed—335 via fee title purchase and the remainder via conservation easement.

The District strongly supports the Occidental Arts & Ecology Center in its efforts to assess the Salmon Creek estuary. The Occidental Arts & Ecology Center has an excellent record of facilitating and project managing community collaborations that have made significant contributions to Sonoma County's ecological health.

The project will inform many ongoing collaborative efforts underway in the Salmon Creek Watershed. The District owns property which bounds Salmon Creek just east of the estuary across from Salmon Creek State Beach. The in-depth scientific study of the estuary and surrounding wetlands, could inform management and restoration plans for the property, and will provide a solid foundation for identification of future projects.

This is important work in a critical watershed here in Sonoma County and I encourage you to support their request.

Sincerely,

Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager

c: Richard Retecki

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support

Paul Morabito, Board President
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Coastal Conservancy
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito,

I am writing behalf of LandPaths ("Land Partners Through Stewardship") to support The Occidental Arts & Ecology Center in its project to assess the Salmon Creek estuary. This project will be undertaken in co-operation with Salmon Creek Watershed Council, which for many years has been involved in efforts to bring both agency and community attention to the need to assess the health of Salmon Creek.

The in-depth scientific study of the estuary and surrounding wetlands, the compilation of historical and anecdotal data, and the establishment monitoring protocol will help bring a comprehensive understanding of the entire system and will provide a sound foundation for identification of future restoration projects and conservation measures. The effort to fully involve the community of local landowners and residents is essential to making this a meaningful project that will lead to improvements in wildlife habitat and an understanding of human impacts on the riparian system.

The Occidental Arts & Ecology Center has an extensive history of collaborating with state and local agencies, and with farmers, landowners and environmental groups in West Sonoma County. They have an excellent record of facilitating and project managing community collaborations that have made significant contributions to Sonoma County's ecological health.

As a (landowner/land manager/other interested party) we will be interested in any knowledge that will enable us to better steward our land. (Or describe your specific ownership/interest and how you could use this study)

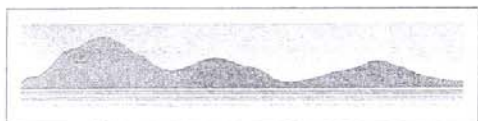
Sincerely,

CA

Craig Anderson
Executive Director, LandPaths

CC: Richard Retecki

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support



S O N O M A L A N D T R U S T

966 SONOMA AVE.
SANTA ROSA
CA 95404

TEL: 707 526 6930
FAX: 707 526 3001
email: slt@sonic.net
sonomalandtrust.org

September 11, 2003

Paul Morabito, Board President
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
VIA FACSIMILE: 510-286-0470

Dear Mr. Morabito,

I am writing behalf of Sonoma Land Trust to support The Occidental Arts & Ecology Center's proposed project to assess the Salmon Creek estuary. This project will be undertaken in co-operation with Salmon Creek Watershed Council, which for many years has been involved in efforts to bring both agency and community attention to the need to assess the health of Salmon Creek.

The proposed study will be an in-depth scientific study of the estuary and surrounding wetlands, the compilation of historical and anecdotal data, and the establishment monitoring protocol will help bring a comprehensive understanding of the entire system and will provide a sound foundation for identification of future restoration projects and conservation measures. The effort to fully involve the community of local landowners and residents is essential to making this a meaningful project that will lead to improvements in wildlife habitat and an understanding of human impacts on the riparian system.

Sonoma Land Trust supports this effort because, by gathering essential data, it will enable us to better identify important conservation resources in the Salmon Creek estuary and work for their preservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Aimee Carroll Crawford', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Aimee Carroll Crawford
Land Conservation Manager

cc: Richard Retecki ✓



TO PROTECT THE LAND FOREVER

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support



STEWARDS of SLAVIANKA

Preserving the Redwood Coast

Russian River Sector State Parks

Paul Morabito, Board President
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Coastal Conservancy
Oakland, CA 94612

Richard Retecki
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito,

I am writing behalf of Stewards of Slavianka to support The Occidental Arts & Ecology Center in it's project to assess the Salmon Creek estuary. This project will be undertaken in co-operation with Salmon Creek Watershed Council, which for many years has been involved in efforts to bring both agency and community attention to the need to assess the health of Salmon Creek.

The in-depth scientific study of the estuary and surrounding wetlands, the compilation of historical and anecdotal data, and the establishment of monitoring protocol will help bring a comprehensive understanding of the entire system and will provide a sound foundation for identification of future restoration projects and conservation measures. The effort to fully involve the community of local landowners and residents is essential to making this a meaningful project that will lead to improvements in wildlife habitat and an understanding of human impacts on the riparian system.

The Occidental Arts & Ecology Center has an extensive history of collaborating with state and local agencies, and with farmers, landowners and environmental groups in West Sonoma County. They have an excellent record of facilitating and project managing community collaborations that have made significant contributions to Sonoma County's ecological health.

As an organization that supports resource management projects on State Park property we will be interested in any knowledge that will enable us to better steward the State's land.

Sincerely,

Michele Luna
Executive Director

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

P.O. Box 221 • Duncans Mills, CA 95430 • (707) 869-9177 • Fax (707) 869-8252 • stewards@mcn.org
www.stewardsofslavianka.org



EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support



Bodega Land Trust

dedicated to the conservation and stewardship of land and community

September 10, 2003

Paul Morabito, Board President
Executive Officer
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito:


Bodega Land Trust wishes to add its support to the California Coastal Conservancy's funding The Occidental Arts & Ecology Center in an assessment of the Salmon Creek estuary in Sonoma County. This cooperative effort of the Center, Salmon Creek Watershed Council, agencies, landowners, residents of the watershed, and other stakeholders will provide valuable baseline information to provide direction for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of the whole watershed as well as the estuary.

Stakeholder involvement is essential in conducting a meaningful assessment that will guide efforts to mitigate human impacts on the riparian system and improve natural habitat. The in-depth scientific study of the estuary and surrounding wetlands, the compilation of historical and anecdotal data, and the establishment of monitoring protocol will help establish a comprehensive understanding of the estuary's dynamics and provide a sound foundation for identification of future restoration projects and conservation measures.

The Occidental Arts & Ecology Center has built a solid reputation based on an impressive record of collaboration with environmental groups and landowners in West Sonoma County. The Center has brought their organizational expertise to many other projects with very positive results and is well suited to lead this effort.

As a locally supported organization, Bodega Land Trust will benefit from all information that fosters better understanding and stewardship of the land, water, and other natural resources upon which the health of the estuary and watershed depend. Bodega Land Trust, dedicated to the preservation of land and the communities it supports, would commit to fully supporting the assessment of the Salmon Creek estuary.

Sincerely,


Mary Biggs
President, Bodega Land Trust

cc: Richard Retecki
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612

Occidental Arts & Ecology Center
15290 Coleman Valley Rd
Occidental, CA 95465

Lauren Hammack
Prunuske Chatham, Inc
P.O. Box 828
Occidental, CA 95465

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF

A California non-profit 501(c) 3 corporation
P.O. Box 254, Bodega, CA 94922 bodegalandtrust@bodeganet.com 876-1806 or 876-3422
Board of Directors: Mary Biggs, Alistair Bleifuss, Rob Cary, John Everett, Sharon Welling Harston

EXHIBIT 5: Letters of Support



JOSEPH PHELPS

October 28, 2003

Paul Morabito, Board President
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Coastal Conservancy
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Morabito,

I am writing to support The Occidental Arts & Ecology Center project to assess the Salmon Creek estuary. This project will be undertaken in cooperation with Salmon Creek Watershed Council, which for many years has been involved in efforts to bring both agency and community attention to the need to assess the health of Salmon Creek.

The in-depth scientific study of the estuary and surrounding wetlands, the compilation of historical and anecdotal data and the establishment of monitoring protocol will help bring a comprehensive understanding of the entire system and will provide a sound foundation for identification of future restoration projects and conservation measures. The effort to fully involve the community of local landowners and residents is essential to making this a meaningful project that will lead to improvements in wildlife habitat and an understanding of human impacts on the riparian system.

The Occidental Arts & Ecology Center has an extensive history of collaborating with state and local agencies, and with farmers, landowners and environmental groups in West Sonoma County. They have an excellent record of facilitating and project managing community collaborations that have made significant contributions to Sonoma County's ecological health.

We are one of many local farmers in the Salmon Creek watershed. Currently, we are working with Laurel Marcus of Laurel Marcus and Associates and Kerry Williams of the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District in conjunction with the GoldRidge Resource Conservation District towards certification of our own "Fish Friendly Farming" program on our property. This proposed assessment of the estuary would provide additional and valuable scientific information that would enhance our stewardship efforts and those of our Salmon Creek watershed community.

Sincerely,



Craig Williams

CC: Richard Retecki ✓

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